



HOPE ROCK
CHURCH
AT LAKE TRAVIS

I Have Felt Forgotten by God, but I Wasn't!

Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph but forgot him. Genesis 40:23

Have you ever been in a situation where you wondered if God had forgotten you? In the Bible there are 2 men who had every reason to feel forgotten, Joseph (the abused and imprisoned) and the Apostle Paul (the beaten and shipwrecked).

Joseph had every reason to feel forgotten: betrayed by his family, removed from his culture, unjustly imprisoned, forgotten and left to languish in a prison. From age 17 to 30 Joseph was either in slavery or prison, then God moved mightily in his life. Joseph never seemed to lose heart; he served faithfully in spite of all the injustice he experienced.

Joseph gives us a glimpse into a man who had unwavering trust in the sovereign goodness of God. God was doing eternal things through Joseph's imprisonment. To his brothers who sold him into slavery more than twenty years earlier Joseph responds by faith, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (Genesis 50:20)

Paul the Apostle gives us a glimpse of a man who found contentment in Christ when most would have felt forgotten by God.

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:11-13)

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Paul could have felt forgotten, instead he found contentment and strength in the grace of Jesus. He learned that Jesus was all he needed, and that God's purposes were glorious and satisfying.

Is your view of God large enough to support you in the deepest sea of struggle when your next breath seems impossible? Do you know that there is a God who will walk with you through the shadows of isolation and accomplish great things through your faith in Him?

You are not alone, and God has not forgotten you!